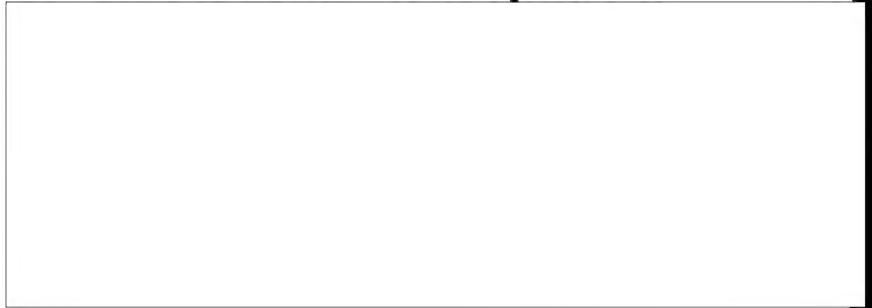




Director of
Central
Intelligence



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WESTERN EUROPE - CENTRAL AMERICA: Socialist Meeting

The Socialist International meeting that opens today in Bonn probably will urge the US to support negotiated settlements of Central American disputes.

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The discussion is to focus on the election in El Salvador and on the reports by French and Spanish Socialist party leaders on their factfinding trip to the region in late February.

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Comment: The meeting promises to provide the first detailed discussion of West European reactions to the election in El Salvador. The attitudes of most West European governments and Christian Democratic parties probably are close to those of the Socialists.

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Most members of the International expect a rightist coalition in El Salvador. Despite their belief that the large turnout has lowered the standing of the guerrillas and will increase rightist resistance to negotiations, the members will continue to stress the need for a political settlement. They now are likely to concentrate on trying to secure US support for negotiations, because they believe that only the US will be able to influence a rightist government.

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